tures (SRHDs), in terms of which NHB subscribes to SRHDs floated by Agricultural and Rural Development Banks, covering thri entire lending to rural housing under the scheme against guarantee of the concerned State Government.

(b) National Housing Bank has reported that it has so far subscribed Rs. 899.50 lakhs towards SRHDs floated by Uttar Pradesh Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (UPARDB). Besides this, NHB has also paid Rs. 100 crores to UPARDB specifically for housing loans to the victims of the recent earthquake in the hilly regions of Uttarkashi as ad hoc payment.

(c) to (e). In terms of NHB scheme, the housing loans are first disbursed by ARDBs and the SRHDs are floated thereafter. SRHDs are floated not for the amount of housing loan sanctioned but for the amount of housing loans actually disbursed. Accordingly, NHB's financial assistance by way of subscription to the SRHDs is made on only after the amount has been actually utilised by the beneficiaries. In respect of the amount of Rs. 10 crores, however, the amount was released to the UPARDE for being adjusted against housing loans to be granted to the victims of the earthquake. UPARDB has not furnished a report on the utilisation of the same to NHB.

[English]

Loss of Flag of Jhansi Ki Rani

6835. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flag of Jhansi Ki Rani, in the Rajasthan Rifles Regimental Centre, Delhi has been found missing;

(b) if so, the details of the case;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (e). The flag of Jhansi-Ki-Rani purported have been captured in 1857 was in the possession of 5 Rajputana Rifles. In October 1977, the flag was despatched to the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre (RRRC), Delhi Cantonment for safe custody, as the battallion was due to move to a field area. The flag was found missing sometime in 1978 from RRRC, Delhi. When the Unit requested for the return of the flag in May 1980, it was not traceable.

A Unit Court of Inquiry held in 1980 and a Staff Court of Inquiry held in 1982,, could not trace the whereabouts of the flag, though some lapses on the part some Officers were pointed out for the loss. However, the case was closed by the then COAS. Subsequently, the Government reviewed the matter and entrusted the case to the CBI. The CBI registered a case in 1988 and conducted a detailed investigation. Inquiries were also made through Interpol and Indian Embassies abroad, particularly in U. K. by the C. B. I., but no evidence or clue regarding the flag could be obtained. Consequently, the CBI closed the case and filed a Closure Report u/s 173 CrPC in 1991 in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi. As even investigations by the CBI could not trace the flag, ollestablish any criminal case against any persons, the Government had no option, but to close the case in 1991.